

Appl. No. 10/632,746
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has pointed out that the total number of additives and their location is unclear from the description given in claims 1 and 15. To avoid this rejection, claims 1 and 15 are amended to more precisely define the invention.

The Examiner refers to the specification on page 13 and the examples on page 29 to support the Examiner's position that, "it is believed by the Examiner that all five materials must be present as toner additives and that one may or may not be used as an internal additive."

The Examiner's interpretation on the additives is not a proper reflection of the invention. The invention includes that external toner additives include four materials, that is, silica,

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titania, a lubricant and fine polymer particles or barium sulfate as now claimed. All five at one time is not required by the invention.

Descriptions in the above two portions (on pages 13 and 29) pointed out by the Examiner had been added by the inventor's clerical error. Accordingly, these portions are deleted from the specification and the specification otherwise clarified.

Withdrawal of the formal rejection is therefore requested.

The art related rejection is of claims 1-25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Ogawa (USP 6,060,202) and Thompson (USP 5,998,079) in view of Nishikiori (USP 5,476,741). Applicants request reversal of this rejection in view of the following:

As is clearly understood from the description from page 3, lines 14 to page 4 line 2, in order to avoid poor transfer and tone filming and improve the cleaning properties, the present invention provides an image forming apparatus and a unique new toner to be used in the apparatus. The toner fixes on a surface thereof an external additive containing silica, titania, a lubricant, and either barium sulfate or fine polymer particles.

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Although the cited references disclose various materials as the external additive there is no reference which discloses both a **first material combination** of silica, titania, barium sulfate, and a lubricant, and a **second material combination** of silica, titania, fine polymer particles, and a lubricant. Both the first and second material combinations are characteristic features of the present invention to provide the desired results.

Considering the art in detail: Ogawa merely discloses various materials including silica, titanium, barium sulfate, a lubricant, resin and others as an external additive.

Thompson merely discloses various materials including silica, titanium, barium sulfate, a lubricant, fine particle polymer and others also.

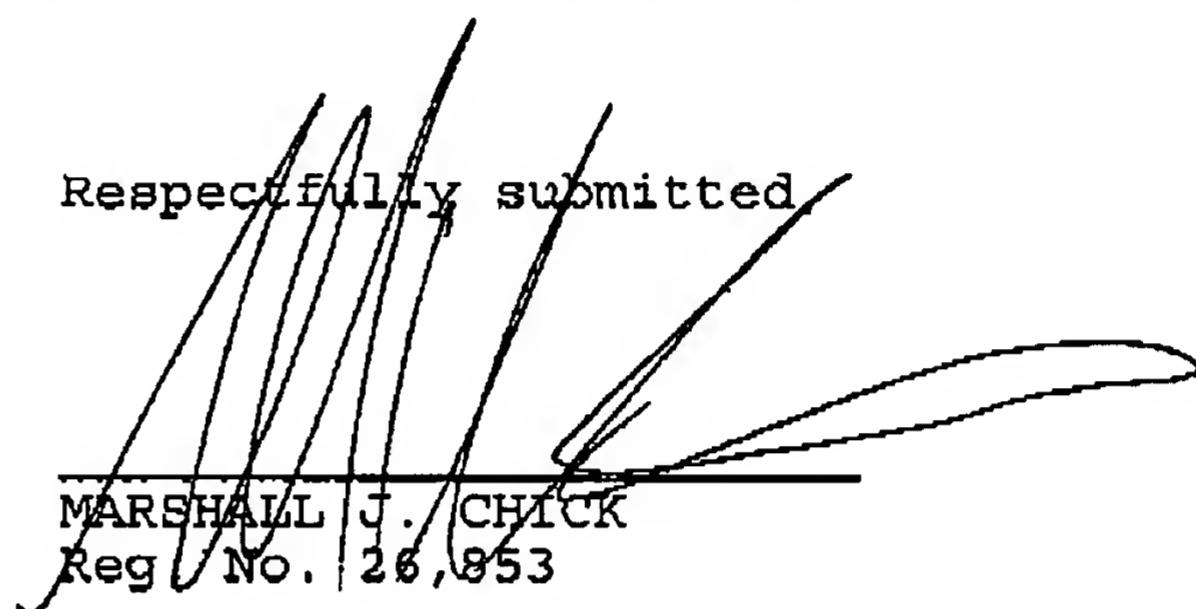
Nishikiori teaches that similar additives may be internal as well as external as pointed out by the Examiner.

Furthermore, there is no reason known in the art to use the inventive composition with an expectation of especially good results. Certainly there is no reference which discloses the prevention of poor transfer and an improved cleaning of the toner remaining on an image carrier.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted


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